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Scientific Data Security Urged to House Unit

Washington—University scientists should consider ways to reduce the loss of national security information from scientific exchanges or face the reality that some agencies of government will do it for them, Adm. Bobby R. Inman told the House Science and Technology Committee last week.

Inman stressed that the views he expressed were his own and not those of the Central Intelligence Agency, where he is deputy director. Inman said neither he nor the CIA has any plans to force the academic community to submit scientific papers for review.

Matter of Concern

Inman told two subcommittees meeting jointly that he is merely trying to act as "gadfly" or "goat" to draw attention to a matter that is of extreme personal concern to him. He said failure of the scientific community to address the problem may lead to interest by such agencies as the Commerce, State and Defense departments in designing controls. That could happen in 6-18 months, Inman predicted, adding that he could not speak for those departments.

Only a small percentage of information about U.S. national security considered valuable to the Soviets comes from scientific exchanges, Inman said.

The Soviets are particularly interested in laser and particle-beam research, biotechnology, high-speed integrated circuits and large-scale integration technologies.

If U.S. counterintelligence efforts are successful in stopping the nearly 70% of information that comes from non-scientific sources, such as actual hardware, however, college campuses will become a more important target of Soviet intelligence gathering, he said.

Inman's remarks on the same subject in January to the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science sparked controversy when it was wrongly assumed the U.S. intelligence community was about to demand security review of scientific papers.

Inman said he accepted an invitation to appear before the association prior to assuming his CIA position and on the stipulation that it was understood his remarks represented his personal views (AW&ST Feb. 8, p. 10).

Inman said he intends to release this month an unclassified report of efforts by the Soviets to use American technology for their own gain.

Information Generation

Most of the scientific information the Soviet Union wants is generated by universities under Defense Dept. contracts. The Defense Dept. is now reviewing options to use those contracts for control of information, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense George P. Millburn said.

Rep. Albert Gore, Jr. (D-Tenn.) said private industry already uses contracts with universities to protect proprietary information, as is the case with a \$50-million contract between Massachusetts General Hospital and a West German firm for biological research.

Millburn said the Defense Dept. will establish in the "near future" guidelines for release of information in Defense Dept. contracts. Some options under consideration include:

- An internal process whereby Defense Dept. research and development experts and the military departments work out terms for reviewing contracts in consultation with universities and Commerce and State departments.

- Prepublication review that would allow a contractor to change or modify technical data so it would be releasable to the public without going through an export licensing process.

- A time limit that could be imposed allowing the university investigator to publish his results if, after informing the government, he has not received a response within 30-60 days.

- A Defense Dept. simplification of the review process by first addressing the most critical and time-urgent technologies and then proceeding to wider coverage.

- Licenses that would be sought only in those cases clearly deemed subject to licensing requirements.

The urgency to control non-Defense Dept.-funded research is less than that for Defense Dept.-funded research, Millburn said.

"In federally contracted research programs, the contract negotiation process itself could provide a vehicle for educating the university research community of the needs of DOD for restricting information in certain sensitive areas," Millburn told the Science and Technology subcommittee.

Forum Established

A Defense Dept.-University Forum has been established and held its first meeting Feb. 24.

The forum consists of eight university presidents, three university and higher education organizations and nine Defense Dept. officials.

The first meeting dealt with export control, and a further group to define that area is being established with the Assn. of American Universities.